

**MICHIGAN's VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (VIN)**  
**ETCHING PROGRAM**

**SOME COMMON QUESTIONS ANSWERED**

**Q. What is etching?**

- A. It is the permanent marking of your vehicle's glass with the VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) in order to discourage thefts.

**Q. What good will it do?**

- A. Thieves steal vehicles in order to make easy money by either quickly selling parts stripped off the vehicle or by selling the entire vehicle. A vehicle with etched glass costs the thieves money because it has to be removed, disposed of, and replaced before the vehicle is sold. As a result, thieves learn to not steal etched vehicles. In short, etching your vehicle is a good theft prevention measure.

**Q. Will it damage the windows?**

- A. No. The process only affects the outer most layer of the glass. This will in no way damage your windows or make them weaker.

**Q. Won't it alter my car's appearance?**

- A. No. The numbering is only 1/4" in height and 2" in width. The numbering has a white color that can be seen within a few feet of your vehicle. Thieves and police officers know where to look for the etching, but the casual passer-by will not notice.

**Q. How long does this take?**

- A. It should only take 10 minutes. The vehicle owner must complete a registration form and have staff create the stencils. The owner may park their vehicle anywhere, but the windows must be completely closed.

**Q. How much does this cost?**

- A. Although some car dealerships and glass companies will provide etching for a fee of up to \$250, AAA is providing this service free of charge. It's our hope that the program will decrease the number of vehicle thefts and make you feel more secure.

**Q. What are other additional benefits of VIN etching?**

- A.
1. By having your vehicle etched, you may qualify for a discount on the comprehensive coverage of your auto insurance premium.
  2. It is an economical way of auto theft prevention. It is free.
  3. Etched vehicle windows provide traceable numbers in case of theft.
  4. Makes your car less attractive to the car thieves. Instead of making money on your vehicle, the thief has to spend money to remove and dispose of the etched windows.